as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective for preparation of the feasibility reports. The Pre-feasibility Reports of all the links and Feasibility Reports of 8 links have been completed. The Central Government has constituted a Task Force on Inter-linking of rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha on 13-12-2002. The Task Force is working to suggest and guide the task of achieving the goal of inter-linking of rivers by the end of 2016 as per its terms of reference.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for re-orienting existing National Water Policy which however covers water management aspects. There is also a provision in the policy for transfer of water from surplus areas to deficit areas.

Tribunal for sharing Krishna waters

4781. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a petition to the Centre for constituting a Tribunal on sharing of Krishna waters;

(b) if so, the details of the request; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) (a) and (b) The State of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a complaint under Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 to the Central Government on January 20, 2003 stating that water disputes with regard to use, distribution and control of the waters of the Inter-State river Krishna have arisen between the riparian States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. As per the complaint, the interest of the State of Andhra Pradesh and its inhabitants have been, and/or are likely to be, prejudicially affected by various acts of commission and ommission of the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka such as unauthorized construction of the Almatti Dam, wrongful utilisation of waters of Tungabhadra river and from the Tungabhadra Dam and violations of the award in the Bheema sub-basin. In the complaint, the State of Andhra Pradesh requested to constitute a water disputes tribunal under Section 4 (1) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 for adjudication and decision of the dispute emerging from the letter of complaint.

(c) As per Section 3 of the ISRWD Act, 1956 the Central Government is required to form an opinion that water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, and thereafter within a period of not exceeding one year from the date of receipt of request, is required to constitute a water dispute tribunal for adjudication of the water dispute.